

his promotion of academic and athletic excellence within the Atlantic Sun Conference, and his overall contributions to the local community.

Madam Speaker, for over 20 years Bobby Pope, Dean of the Atlantic Sun Conference, has served as the Athletic Director for Mercer University. During his tenure, Mercer athletics have thrived, and its student-athletes have achieved impressive success both on and off the field. The program now includes 14 NCAA Division I teams plus the addition of the first-ever fulltime coaches for men's and women's golf, tennis, and cross country. Largely thanks to Bobby, Mercer University will field Georgia's first NCAA Division I men's and women's lacrosse teams in the upcoming year. Bobby Pope's commitment to building and strengthening Mercer athletics can further be seen in the recent renovations of existing fields and the construction of a state-of-the-art facility for student-athletes and coaches.

With Bobby Pope at the helm, Mercer University has twice won the Atlantic Sun Conference's All-Academic Trophy. Since its inception in 2007, the Atlantic Sun Conference post-graduate scholarship recognizing excellence and integrity has been awarded to a Mercer student-athlete. During Bobby's tenure, the cumulative grade point average for Mercer Bear student-athletes never fell below 3.0—a testament to his commitment to academic excellence.

Madam Speaker, Bobby Pope's passion and commitment to athletics and promoting sportsmanship extend beyond Mercer University. He has been very active in the Atlantic Sun Conference—twice serving as Conference President, as well as serving as a member on numerous Conference committees. Bobby has also made innumerable contributions to the local community as treasurer of the Macon Touchdown Club and through his service on the Mayor's Recreation Master Plan Committee, as well as the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority. Indeed, he was recognized for his lifelong contributions to Middle Georgia Athletics when he was inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame on April 28, 2006. Also, for over 35 years, his broadcast of local sports news on the "Saturday Scoreboard" gave us the good, the bad, and the ugly about our Georgia Bulldogs, Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, and other middle Georgia sports teams.

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Madam Speaker, it is fitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to include this brief acknowledgement of the accomplishments of Bobby Pope as Athletic Director of Mercer University. As he assumes his new role as the Executive Director for the Mercer Athletic Foundation, Bobby will undoubtedly continue to contribute to the success and accomplishments of Mercer Athletics. Few leave such enduringly positive legacies.

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 284, introduced by Representative SESSIONS, which recognizes the hard work and importance of special education teachers.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that people with special needs or disabilities had the same right to the quality education in public schools as their nondisabled peers. This monumental case changed the way we view children with special needs as well as the increased need for teachers who are certified for educating children with special needs. Actually, today, about 10 percent of all school-aged children receive special education services. This number shows the necessity and importance of special education teachers nationwide.

It takes an exceptional person to educate children with disabilities. Special education teachers have to adapt to a wide variety of needs ranging from children who have autism, hearing and seeing impairments, and even orthopedic impairments. Special education teachers have to come up with individual-specific plans for each child enrolled in their class, tailored to help children reach their full learning potential. Special education teachers must possess unique characteristics including extreme patience, organization capabilities, and the ability to understand each individual's needs. What makes these unique characteristics and hard work of these educators especially significant is the fact that they help improve the lives of the neediest amongst us, the special education students. Therefore, it is evident that these special education teachers' hard work and dedication is truly deserving of the appreciation that Congress offers within H. Con. Res. 284.

DeKalb County School System located in the Fourth District of Georgia has a history of focused care and concern for students with special needs. In fact, DeKalb County School System has an internationally recognized Exceptional Education and Support Services Division that provides a support system for the students with special needs as well as for their parents. I am proud of programs within my district, such as this support division, that help special education teachers by giving them the option to offer this support system to their students. I want to personally thank the special education teachers in my district and across the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1244,

"Recognizing the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for its now five-year effort to promote cyber security curriculum in institutions of higher learning," as introduced by my fellow member of the Texas delegation, Rep. CIRO RODRIGUEZ.

Our nation's critical infrastructure is composed of public and private institutions in the sectors of agriculture, food, water, public health, emergency services, government, defense industrial base, information and telecommunications, energy, transportation, banking and finance, chemicals and hazardous materials, and postal and shipping. Cyberspace is their nervous system—the control system of our country. Cyberspace is composed of hundreds of thousands of interconnected computers, servers, routers, switches, and fiber optic cables that allow our critical infrastructures to work. Thus, the healthy, secure, and efficient functioning of cyberspace is essential to both our economy and our national security.

One of the most significant security challenges that our Federal government faces today is ensuring that we have an abundance of adequately trained individuals defending our information infrastructure. In the past, I have been proud to sponsor bills that would increase funding for cybersecurity education programs, to ensure that we have a properly trained workforce to protect this vital infrastructure. The National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) is an important piece of the cybersecurity education puzzle.

Since 2005, the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition has given students in the field of cybersecurity the opportunity to showcase their abilities. Rather than having students design an "ideal" network, the CCDC requires participants to assume the administrative and protective duties for an existing "commercial" network. This allows participants to show their skill at "real world" situations, as very few cybersecurity workers will have the luxury of building a perfect system from the ground up. While we obviously want to build the most secure networks possible, our experts must be able to work with the infrastructure that exists, finding and eliminating weaknesses that may already exist, and making imperfect systems secure.

Over the last few years, the contest has grown to include regional competitions in Texas, Maine, Washington, California, and Minnesota, among other locations. This year, there were more than eighty schools that participated, from all parts of the country. The students participating in this contest have not only demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of this important function, but they have also had the opportunity to hone their skills by dealing with actual, real time issues. The National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition plays an important role in the development of our next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and I am proud to join Mr. RODRIGUEZ in recognizing it.